REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 16, 2008, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-32 are rejected. Claims 1, 2, and 5-32 are amended, Claims 3 and 4 are cancelled, and Claims 33 and 34 are added. Thus, Claims 1, 2, and 5-34 are pending in this application. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification as originally filed. Claim 33 (new) finds clear support at least in the description on page 23, lines 26-28 in the specification and Claim 34 (new) is supported by at least the description on page 8, lines 6-24. Applicant submits that no new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objected to the Abstract indicating that it contained improper language and content and was of excessive length. The Abstract has been amended and is presented clear copy attached to this response. The Title of the invention has been changed to "A system for settling an account without cash" from "A hotel management system".

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 1 – 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for the use of "comprehensively." The term "comprehensively" has been

deleted. The Claims have been rewritten to more clearly point out and distinctly claim that which the Applicants consider to be the invention.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Boushy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,003,013, hereinafter "Boushy"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 32 claims a system for settling account without cash utilizable in both a hotel with a restaurant and a casino with gaming machines installed in the hotel comprising certain specific structure in specific relationships. The hotel has both a restaurant and a casino with gaming machines. The identification medium issuing device is installed in the hotel; and the identification medium is utilizable for a room key of a room of the hotel user. The system includes a first server storing deposit amount data deposited in the deposit reference part in connection with the identification number of the identification medium, such as the casino deposit server 66. The system also includes a second server storing payment amount data read by the reading device corresponding to the identification number such as the hotel server 2. The reading device is installed in the restaurant of the hotel and in each of the gaming machines; and is able to refer the deposit amount of the deposit reference part in the identification medium. The claim further requires that a renewal treatment of the deposit amount and a payment treatment from the deposit amount are managed by the first server and that the payment treatment is executed by the second server based on the reading of the

deposit amount in the deposit reference part of the identification medium through the reading device.

Boushy discloses a system and method of differentiating customers according to their worth to the casino. Customer information and accounts are updated with new activity data whenever a management system associated with the casino receives customer data from input devices such as card readers, workstations, and dumb terminals located at various venues in the casino. Customers are awarded points, based on their tracked activity. Customer status is based on accumulated points. When the customer is recognized at a gaming machine, or any location having a suitable card reader, the customer's status is determined in the customer account. For a special status customer, a physical instrumentality is activated for the benefit of the customer, such as a telephone, light, lockable cabinet, or the like. Distinguished services may also be provided once the special status customer is recognized. (Abstract).

Boushy fails to teach or suggest at least any of the noted structural points and/or relationships set forth above.

Consequently, there can be no anticipation of Claim 32. Claims 33 and 34 depend from Claim 32 and are also not anticipated not only for the reasons above, but also for the additional features that are claimed therein.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Binh Thanh Vuong et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0147042, hereinafter

"Vuong") in view of Boushy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,003,013, hereinafter "Boushy").
Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 claims a system for settling account without cash utilizable in both a hotel with a restaurant and a casino with gaming machines installed in the hotel comprising certain specific structure in specific relationships. The hotel has both a restaurant and a casino with gaming machines. The identification medium issuing means is installed in the hotel; and the identification medium is utilizable for a room key of a room of the hotel user. The system includes a first server storing deposit amount data deposited in the deposit reference part in connection with the identification number of the identification medium, such as the casino deposit server 66. The system also includes a second server storing payment amount data read by the reading means corresponding to the identification number such as the hotel server 2. The reading means is installed in the restaurant of the hotel and in each of the gaming machines; and is able to refer the deposit amount of the deposit reference part in the identification medium. The claim further requires that a renewal treatment of the deposit amount and a payment treatment from the deposit amount are managed by the first server and that the payment treatment is executed by the second server based on the reading of the deposit amount in the deposit reference part of the identification medium through the reading means.

Vuong discloses a system and method for remote gaming that enables remote players and local players at a casino to participate in a live action game of chance. The system includes an intelligent table adapted for playing a live game of chance and a

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table manager for interfacing the table to a computer network and a detectable gaming object such as a deck of cards, the dice , a roulette ball and wheel and the like.

As noted above with respect to Claim 32, Boushy fails to teach or suggest at least the above features of Claim 1 as well.

Vuong fails to cure any of the noted deficiencies. Consequently, the combination of Vuong taken in view of Boushy fails to present a prima facia case for obviousness of Claim 1.

Claims 2, and 5 – 31 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and therefore also not obvious for the above reasons as well as for the additional features that are claimed therein.

Further, the rationale given in the Office Action for the combination, that somehow adding a hotel management system of Boushy to the "casino management system" of Vuong would "enhance the speed and reliability of play of a wide range of games of chance" makes no sense. The Office Action merely quotes an objective of Vuong without setting forth any basis for how the combination would achieve or enhance that objective beyond what is already taught in Vuong. That is not a proper rejection under the standards of KSR v. Teleflex recently decided by the Supreme Court.

Claims 17-20 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Binh Thanh Vuong et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0147042, hereinafter "Vuong") in view of Boushy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,003,013, hereinafter "Boushy") as applied above in the rejection of Claims 1, 5, 6, 13, 21, and 24, and further

in view of Kloss et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,531,309, hereinafter "Kloss"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Office Action is relying on Kloss for a teaching of a system where a measuring means calculates a number of "chips" based on the unit weight of one "chip". A more accurate reading would be Kloss teaches "internal coin sensors (110, 112) that sense the weight, and therefore, the number of coins contained in the internal coin containers (104, 106)" of a gaming machine so as to be able to compare the number of coins of the inflow and outflow to detect possible fraud. There is no reason to combine such a teaching with the RFID sensing of Vuong. The alleged reason in the Office Action that it would be more efficient has no basis in the record. Vuong considers its system to be the more efficient. A teaching of internal structure of a gaming machine is irrelevant to bet area of a bet board or a bet part of a gaming table and a measuring means therefor.

Additionally, Kloss fails to cure the deficiencies of the basic combination of Vuong with Boushy as noted above. Since Claims 17 – 20 and 28 – 31 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1, they are allowable for the same reasons as noted above and the features claimed therein.
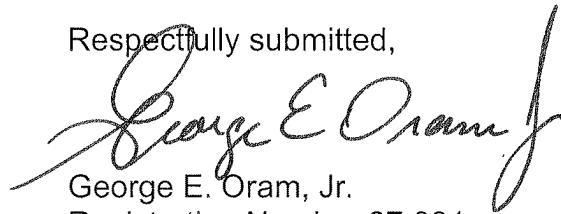
Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone

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number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Docket Number 024016-00075.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Abstract (clean copy)

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